Wheeler & Co. on newly constructed platforms No. 6 and 7 at Guwahati, if so, what are the reasons therefor, and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the North Frontier Railway did not call applications to allot book stalls to the unemployed graduates on those platforms?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) and (b) After extension of broad gauge to Guwahati, in February, 1985, M/s. A. H. Wheeler & Co. (P) Ltd., were permitted to shift their bookstalls from Kamakhya station to platforms No. 6-7 of Guwahati railway station on the consideration that certain important Metre Gauge trains, from and to Guwahati which were converted into Broad Gauge trains, were being dealt with on platforms No. 6-7, and it was felt that experienced bookstall contractor should continue to provide service on these trains. The matter was reviewed in February, 1986 and the Railway was asked to allot the bookstall on platforms No. 6-7 at Guwahati to the eligible categories as per the extant procedure.

Monopoly rights of M/s. Wheeler & Co.

214. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Wheeler & Co are rendering satisfactory performance through five book stalls on platforms numbers 1 to 19 at Delhi Junction;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per special sole selling rights M/s. Wheeler & Co. is authorised to set up more bookstalls on vacant platforms/ waiting halls/circulating area at Delhi and other stations; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken to curtail sole selling rights of these contractors to break monopoly as has been published in the Evening News of the 'Hindustan Times' of the 13th February, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) Yes, Sir. They are able to meet the demands of passengers through stalls, tables and trolleys.

(b) No additional bookstall at any place can be set up by M/s. A. H. Wheeler & Co. without prior permission from Railways.

(c) Sole selling right clause is an integral part of the current agreement.

Action on memorandum against M/s. A. H. Wheeler & Co.

215. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI HASHIM RAZA ABIDI ALLAHABADI:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 355 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 1986 and state:

(a) what action has been taken on the memorandum regarding taking over of book stalls of M/s. A. H. Wheeler & Co.;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government for providing employment to unemployed graduates through book stalls from 1973 on those stations where major contractors exist, except newly constructed passenger platform, if any, detailed thereof; and

(c) what are the special reasons for providing sole selling right clause in the

agreement for the M/s. A. H. Wheeler & Co.?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) At present, there is no proposal to take over the bookstalls held by M/s. A. H. Wheeler & Co. under an agreement.

(b) The contract of one of the major bookstall contractors M|S. Gulab Singh & Sons was not renewed on account of their unsatisfactory performance and it was decided to allot bookstalls at these stations to eligible categories including unemployed graduates. But the contractor has obtained a Stay Order from Delhi High Court and is operating under Court's orders.

(c) M/s. A. H. Wheeler & Co were having sole selling rights at certain stations as per clause in the agreement in force upto 31-12-1984. The agreement was renewed with effect from 1-1-1985, keping in view their performance.

National Permits

216. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a new procedure for issuance of National Permits for public carriers; if so, what are the details thereof, stating whether any condition regarding year of manufacture of the carrier has also been prescribed; and

(b) what is the amount of fees which has to be paid by applicants of National Permits and what is the name of the appropriate authority which has been authorised to entertain applications and to receive fees for grant of National Permits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The quota restrictions on National Permits for public carriers under section 63(11) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 have been removed w.e.f. 28-1-1986. The applicants who are residents of the State or have principal place of business in that State are eligible to apply.

It has been decided that the age of the vehicle operating under National Permit has to be within 9 years at any point of time, as computed from the date of registration. As for fees, it has been decided in the recent meeting of Transport Ministers of all States|UTs that composite fee in lieu of tax payable by the holder of the National Permits, will be Rs. 1500/- for each plying State and Rs. 750/- for each plying Union Territory per year, besides full tax of the Home State.

The State Transport Authorities and the Regional Transport Authorities wherever authorised by the State Governments, are empowered to grant National Permits and to collect composite fees.

Harassmen: at International Airports

217. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the editorial comments in the 'Hindustan Times' of 9th April, 1986 regarding harassment of passengers and their relatives due to imposition of a ban on public entry at the International Airports in Delhi, Madras, Calcutta and Bombay;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to provide necessary facilities regarding seating arrangements, shelter, drinking water and toilet etc. to the air passengers and their relatives and friends; and

(c) whether Government have issued necessary instructions to the police personnel manning the gates of the airports to be courteous and polite to the passengers and other visitors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.